

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02186 140740Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----141014Z 066119 /10

R 131311Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2186

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AO, CG, ET, OAU, PFOR, SU, US
SUBJ: OAU SECGENVIEWS ON ZAIRE AND HORN OF AFRICAN SITUATIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2161

SUMMARY: CHARGE MET WITH ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
(OAU) ADMINISTRATIVE SEC GEN, WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA,
AFTERNOON APRIL 12 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. ETEKI PRESENTED
SOME VIEWS ON ZAIRE SITUATION AND ETHIOPIA'S RELATIONS WITH
NEIGHBORS, AND SOLICITED U.S. VIEWS ON SAME. ALTHOUGH
THERE NOTHING SURPRISING IN ETEKI'S REMARKS, HE STATED IT
OAU HOPE ZAIRE ARMY COULD SOLVE PROBLEM, THAT OAU CONCERNED
SITUATION NOT BECOME INTERNATIONALIZED, THAT ETHIOPIA HAD
PERHAPS WAITED TOO LONG TO RAISE ERITREAN ISSUE TO OAU
LEVEL, AND THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE OAU HQ'S BEING
MOVED, DESPITE SECURITY SITUATION IN ADDIS ABABA.
END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02186 140740Z

1. IN CORDIAL MEETING REQUESTED BY ETEKI FOR EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS, HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT ZAIRE
SITUATION, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM THERE, AND,
SECONDARILY, WITH EVOLVING SITUATION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA
AND ITS NEIGHBORS. HE SOLICITED U.S. POSITION ON
ZAIRE AND I TOLD HIM U.S. HOPED FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION

AND FURTHER HOPED NIGERIAN EFFORT TO MEDIATE PEACEFUL SOLUTION WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. WE SOUGHT AFRICAN SOLUTION FOR AFRICAN PROBLEMS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE OAU ROLE, ETEKI RESPONDED OAU WOULD PREFER ZAIRE ARMY TO RESOLVE PROBLEM BUT THAT THEY APPEAR UNABLE TO DO SO AT PRESENT. ETEKI BELIEVED GUERRILLA WAR HAD BEEN WELL PREPARED BUT AGREED THAT EVENTS HAVE APPARENTLY SLOWED DOWN RECENTLY. HIS MAJOR CONCERN, NOW THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS INVOLVED, WAS THAT THERE POSSIBILITY ANGOLA'S BORDER MIGHT BE VIOLATED IN EFFORT TO PUSH BACK GUERRILLAS AND THEREBY CREATE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. ETEKI BELIEVED OAU MUST REMAIN VIGILANT THAT THIS NOT HAPPEN. HE ADDED, ZAIRE SITUATION HAD CAUSED CONCERN FOR MAJORITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHO COULD BE FACED WITH POSSIBILITY OF INVASION BY OWN CITIZENS OPPOSED TO CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENTS RESIDENT IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ETEKI ACKNOWLEDGED ZAIRE DESIRED SOME OAU INVOLVEMENT AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO ANGOLA APRIL 15 TO ASCERTAIN ANGOLA'S POSITION ON SAME. WHEN I ASKED ETEKI IF HE HAD ANY INFO ON WHO "INVADERS" WERE, HE SURMISED THEY KATANGANS BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM HIS ASSUMPTION CATEGORICALLY.

2. TURNING TO ETHIOPIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS, HAVING RECEIVED ETHIOPIAN PROTEST ON SUDANESE AGGRESSION PREVIOUS DAY, ETEKI SPECULATED ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT REACT TO SUDAN MILITARILY AT PRESENT. HE THOUGHT ETHIOPIA MORE INTERESTED IN AROUSING INTERNATIONAL OPINION ON ITS BEHALF. ETEKI SAID OAU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02186 140740Z

WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY SUPPORT ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, BUT THAT IT MAY BE TOO LATE NOW. ETHIOPIA HAD LOBBIED AGAINST OAU EFFORTS IN PAST TO RAISE ERITREAN QUESTION, ON BASIS THAT ERITREA WAS INTERNAL MATTER, BUT MAY HAVE CHANGED ITS MIND SINCE NIMEIRY JANUARY STATEMENT ADVOCATING ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE. ETEKI CHARACTERIZED ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS TO RAISE ISSUE AT CAIRO AFRO-ARAB MEETING AS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THAT TIME AND PLACE.

3. I RAISED ISSUE OF OAU HQ'S BEING RELOCATED AND ETEKI REPEATED OAU HAD SUCCESSFULLY KEPT ISSUE OFF LOME AGENDA AND THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE RELOCATION SERIOUS ISSUE. HE STATED, JUST BECAUSE THERE REVOLUTION HERE AND UNSETTLED SECURITY, IT NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO MOVE HQ'S. OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO SUSCEPTIBLE TO REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: HAVING ANTICIPATED MEETING WOULD BE MORE

SUBSTANTIVE AND PERHAPS INVOLVE OAU SOLICITATION OF
GREATER U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE, I WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED
ETEKI MERELY WANTED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. HIS CHARACTERI
ZATION OF ZAIRE SITUATION AS INTERNAL PROBLEM, SIMILAR
TO U.S. PERCEPTION. IT ALSO INTERESTING ETEKI
BELIEVED IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR ETHIOPIA TO RAISE
ERITREAN ISSUE TO OAU LEVEL. SINCE I WAS PRECEDED BY
SOVIET AMBASSADOR, IT MAY BE THAT ETEKI WAS TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF ONE OF HIS RELATIVELY RARE TIMES IN
ADDIS TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH SOME NON-AFRICAN
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS WHO SELDOM GET TO SEE HIM AND
VICE VERSA.
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS02186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770129-0615
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770464/aaaacctu.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 486a35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 2161
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2826624
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU SECGENVIEWS ON ZAIRE AND HORN OF AFRICAN SITUATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, AO, CG, ET, SU, US, OAU, (MBOUMOUA, WILLIAM ETEKI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/486a35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009